

21st July 2021



**Southfields
Academy**

Dear Parents/Carers

As with the autumn term, once again in the summer term we have been most fortunate with a disproportionately low number of Covid cases in the Academy. On average this term we have seen one case every two weeks. Although the number of those self-isolating is slightly higher, we have had uninterrupted education throughout the term. Students are beginning to regain confidence in their learning and teachers likewise with their teaching, albeit with restrictions in the classrooms and in social spaces.

Well done to all students, teachers and parents. You have come together as a community, supporting each other through the challenges of the pandemic and working hard to bring back a sense of normality for all. In the last week, students have thrived whilst partaking in excursions and alternative activities – it's been a real pleasure to see such joy and relief, students socialising in a different context and collaborating. There have been smiles all around.

Start of Term Arrangements

From September we will be reverting to a pre-pandemic school day, as the need for staggered starts and finishes has been removed by the Department for Education (DfE). The school day will run from **8.15am until 3.00pm for all year groups**. The details of lessons and other routine activities will be communicated at the start of term when we will hold inductions sessions for each year group separately.

There will be breakfast clubs, after school clubs, after school booster and opportunities for after school pastoral interventions. Further details to follow.

Part of our success last year in achieving low numbers of Covid cases can be attributed to our strictly maintained restrictions and hygiene measures throughout the academic year. The DfE has now issued guidance around schools testing all students twice at the start of term in September. This means our start dates will have to shift to allow us to manage the mass testing so to accommodate this, the start of term will be staggered. Your child will be invited for an initial testing day and then a further induction day between Friday 3rd September (Year 7 only) and Friday 10th September. I will communicate exact arrangements for each year group in the week of 23rd August 2021.

Hopefully from Monday 13th September the term will recommence with pre-pandemic arrangements in place with only a few minor restrictions and hygiene measures.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is appropriately dressed and has the correct equipment for their lessons.

From September there will be a slight change to the uniform in that each year group will now have their own tie. This affects Year 7 and Year 9 only. Parents of incoming Year 7 students will be able to order the new tie, or swap the tie they have already purchased. Year 9 parents will be able to order the tie from the [uniform shop](#). You can see the different year group ties overleaf:

**Principal:
Ms Jacqueline Valin**

**Headteacher:
Ms Wanda Golinska**

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Year Group Ties



The uniform shop will be open on Wednesdays from 12-3.00pm during the summer holidays for the collection of orders and purchase of uniform.

Free School Meals

The Local Authority will offer support to the families of children eligible for free school meals over the summer holidays. Each eligible child will be provided with a weekly £15 voucher over the summer holiday period which can be used in a range of supermarkets. Vouchers to cover the first three weeks of the summer holidays will be issued in week starting 19th July. Another voucher will be issued on the 16th August to cover the following two weeks. These vouchers will be sent directly by the Local Authority to the parents of eligible children. Any queries regarding free school meals for summer holidays should be addressed to voucherandholidaysupport@wandsworth.gov.uk

Welfare Line

If you have a concern regarding safeguarding/child protection during the summer holidays, please contact Sara Sharpe, Designated Safeguarding Lead, by phone on 07379 862150 or sara.sarpe@southfieldsacademy.com

Supporting our Young People

On an equally sobering note, it is very apparent that many people, including some of our students, have suffered greatly during the pandemic, with a toll to their mental health. As parents and carers it can sometimes be very difficult to know what is the best thing to do, especially when your child is experiencing thoughts and feelings they haven't had before and you are facing previously unknown situations.

If you feel your child is acting uncharacteristically or you are worried about their mental health, please ask for help. We do not want you to feel alone when dealing with these issues. There is a great deal of professional support available to help you and your child. For a range of resources, please visit

<https://parents.southfieldsacademy.com/page/?title=Resources+for+parents+and+carers&pid=1226>

Covid Testing

I would strongly encourage parents and students to continue testing twice weekly as the number of Covid infections is at worrying levels. The Government has sent the following information regarding an improvement to the system for reporting test results.

New household account feature for parents reporting test results

Currently, if a parent is submitting results through their account on behalf of a child, they have to enter the child's details every time they report a result.

As a result of feedback from parents, NHS Test and Trace have introduced household accounts. This allows parents to save their children's details to their own user accounts so parents can report results for multiple members in the household more quickly and easily.

When reporting self-test results parents will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than two minutes. Parents can then add all household members to their account, enabling them to save time when reporting all future self-test results.

Contact Tracing

From Monday 19 July, schools are no longer required to carry out routine contact tracing. From this point onwards, close contacts will be identified and contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Exam Results

Letters have been sent home about the collection of exam results for Year 11, Year 12 Level 2 and Year 13 students, and subsequent interviews, if applicable. [Please visit the Academy website for further information.](#)

Holiday Homework

Holiday homework has been set for all year groups and has been emailed to parents/carers. It may also be [accessed via the website here](#). The aim of this activity is to prepare students for the subjects and lessons they will be studying from the autumn term.

Holiday homework is compulsory for all students so we appreciate your support in ensuring that it is completed before the new term starts.

Catch-up Website

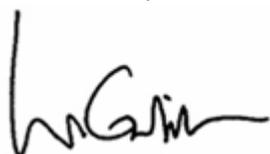
The DfE has launched an information website for parents to support children of all age ranges and abilities catch up on lost learning from the pandemic. The site features advice and support for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as programmes, resources and activities for children and young people this summer. More information is available here <https://educationcatchup.campaign.gov.uk/>

Further Communication

As much could change over the coming weeks, I will write to you again during August to update you with the latest arrangements for the start of the autumn term.

In the meantime, thank you again for your support and I wish you and your family a safe and refreshing summer break.

Yours sincerely



Wanda Golinska
Headteacher